

space of the compartment, and an opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal direction;

a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment, and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

an adjustable clamping device comprising:

at least one adjustable clamping element configured to move the mobile structure in said transverse direction thereby clamping the mobile structure on the fuel assembly using an adjustment device, and

a control device located at said distal end of said compartment in the longitudinal direction and configured to act on the clamping element to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed position within the compartment.

32. Container for the transport of nuclear fuel assemblies, comprising:

a plurality of transport devices each housing a long length nuclear fuel assembly, each transport device comprising:

a compartment having substantially the same length as the fuel assembly, said compartment having fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space of the compartment, and an opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal direction;

a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment, and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

an adjustable clamping device comprising:

at least one adjustable clamping element configured to move the mobile structure in said transverse direction thereby clamping the mobile structure on the fuel assembly using an adjustment device, and

a control device located at said distal end of said compartment in the longitudinal direction and configured to act on the clamping element to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed position within the compartment.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-32 are presently active in this case, Claims 27-30 previously withdrawn from consideration, and Claim 31 canceled and Claims 17 and 32 amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 17-21, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 17-21, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being clearly anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 6,108,392 to Yoshizawa et al. (Yoshizawa I) or U.S. Patent No. 6,169,777 B1 to Yoshizawa et al. (Yoshizawa II); Claims